

REMARKS

Status of Application

Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. In the Office Action mailed December 10, 2008, claims 1-4 were rejected, and claims 5-14 were objected to.

By this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-10 and 14 are pending as currently amended. Claims 5 and 11-13 are cancelled. Claims 15 and 16 are pending as new. No new matter is introduced by these amendments, which are fully supported by the specification.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-10 and 14, and consideration of claims 15 and 16.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any withdrawn, cancelled, or non-elected claims and/or subject matter in separate applications.

Objection to Specification and Claims

Claims 5-14 were objected to because of multiple claim dependency. By this amendment, the dependency of all the pending claims has been clarified.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as being indefinite in using the terms “skeleton information” and “motion vectors.”

By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 refer to the “skeleton” as described in Applicants’ specification (WO2004/044847) at least at page 4, line 13, page 6, line 24, page 7, line 11 to page 8, line 2, and page 8, line 28.

By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 refer to the “motion vectors” as described in Applicants’ specification (WO2004/044847) at least at page 4, line 32 (Fig 5A, B, C), page 6, line 25, and page 7, line 12.

Thus, because these terms are referred to and defined by Applicants’ specification, these objections can be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4 were rejected as anticipated by Zarkh et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2008/0247621 A1. The Examiner stated that Zarkh et al. discloses medical viewing system

comprising a processing means, for automatically detecting the guide-wire tip, yielding skeleton information and motion vectors, and automatically registering the guide-wire tip with motion vectors, and enhancing the guide-wire and the vessel walls while blurring the background in the registered images.

Applicant respectfully submits that Zarkh et al. do not disclose “second means for automatically registering the guide-wire tip with respect to a reference based on the field of motion vectors and for enhancing the images of the guide-wire and the vessel walls while blurring the background in the registered images comprising ridge enhancement means and temporal integration means for enhancing line-like structures and blurring the background,” as described by Applicants. More specifically, among other things, nowhere do Zarkh et al. disclose temporal integration for enhancing structures or blurring the background in the registered images. Applicants’ ridge enhancement and temporal integration means in conjunction with other components advantageously provide for the use of diluted contrast agent, thereby extending the lapse of time for the procedure to minutes instead of a few seconds. (See Applicants’ specification WO2004/044847 at page 8, lines 6-22, and at page 8, line 34 to page 9, line 10)

Thus, because Zarkh et al. do not disclose all limitations of Applicants’ invention, these rejections can be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-10 and 14-16 distinguish patentably from the references of record and are in condition for allowance.

Should any questions remain, Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant’s representative at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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